

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated December 27, 2005.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-12, and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Fanning et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,366,907 (hereinafter Fanning) and Keskar, U.S. Patent No. 6,832,242.

Fanning discloses an Internet-based real-time search engine in which a user who desires an object, web page, etc. may query the search engine using search terms and/or parameters so that the search engine may search a list of objects, residing on the server, for the availability of the requested objects hosted on remote servers. Fanning further discloses that the real time search engine may include means for purging objects from the resident lists if the hosts for such objects are disconnected from the system.

Keskar discloses that persons having Personal Digital Assistant's within range of each other may elect to share certain specified files. The specific file sharing methods disclosed by Keskar have important restrictions such as each PDA must have access to a single centralized server or database that can compare stored data for each user. *See, e.g.* Keskar at col. 2 lines 58-62 and FIG. 1.

If the references are to be combined as suggested by the Examiner, each presented claim patentably distinguishes over that combination. Fanning and Keskar disclose the use of a central server.

Independent claim 1, as amended, includes the limitations of "discovering . . . in a manner free from using a central server," "identifying a discovered data processing device that facilitates a remotely directed search for a data object in a manner free from using a central server;" and "using an identified data processing device to search for said object on discovered said one or more data processing devices over a communication channel of said ad hoc network." These limitations are not disclosed by the suggested combination of Fanning with Keskar.

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For each of these reasons, independent claim 1, as well as its dependent claims 3-12 patenably distinguish over the cited combination of Fanning and Kestar.

Claim 14 patentably distinguishes over the cited references for reasons similar to that cited for claim 1. Hence claims 17, 23-26 are also distinguishable over the cited combination.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-26.

Applicant submits that no fees are required for entry of this Amendment. If any fees are deemed necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fee to Deposit Account No. 03-1550.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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